

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending, and claims 4, 9-11, and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 7-8, and 12 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of qualifications of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 13 were rejected as anticipated by Sitkovsky *et al.*, which, according to the Examiner, teaches a peptide, PLRRTLSVAA-NH<sub>2</sub>, that comes within the recitations of claim 1. Applicant has amended the claims to exclude peptides having charged amino acids, as suggested by the examiner and as supported in the specification, for example, at page 7, lines 12-14. Thus, the stated grounds for rejection are inapposite to the amended claims, warranting entry of this amendment and withdrawal of the rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a timely indication to this effect is respectfully requested. Examiner Gupta is invited to contact the undersigned directly, should he feel that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

S. A. Bent

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143  
Telephone: (202) 672-5404  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Stephen A. Bent  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 29,768

**MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (~~Twice~~ **Thrice** Amended) A peptide which inhibits T-cell antigen receptor (TCR) function, wherein the peptide is of the following formula:

R1-X-Z-X-R2 in which

X is a hydrophobic amino acid or a hydrophobic peptide sequence consisting of between 2 and 6 amino acids

Z is a charged amino acid

R1 is NH<sub>2</sub> and

R2 is COOH

wherein the hydrophobic peptide sequence does not include a charged amino acid.